

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-17 (Canceled.)

Claim 18. (Currently amended) A coated granule comprising a core and a coating, wherein the core comprises a uniform mixture of a detergent enzyme having an alkaline pH activity optimum, and 20% w/w or more of an acidic buffer component, wherein said acidic buffer component has a pH of 1 to below 7 when measured as a 10 % aqueous solution and a pK_a in the range of 4 to 9 and is selected from the group consisting of NaH₂PO₄, KH₂PO₄ and Na₂H-citratephosphates, citric acid, salts of citric acid, malonic acid, succinic acid, glutaric acid, adipic acid, and disodium hydrogen citrate, wherein more than 50% w/w of the core is acidic buffer component, wherein the detergent enzyme is selected from the group consisting of oxidoreductases, transferases, hydrolases, lyases, isomerases and ligases.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The granule according to claim 18, wherein the pH of the acidic buffer component is 3 to below 7.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The granule according to claim 18, wherein the pK_a of the acidic buffer component is 5 to 7.

Claim 21. (Previously presented) The granule according to claim 18, further comprising an acidic buffer component in the coating.

Claim 22. (Previously presented) The granule according to claim 21, wherein the amount of acidic buffer component present in the core is more than 20 % of the total amount of acidic buffer component present in the granule.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) The granule according to claim 21, wherein the acidic buffer component in the core and in the coating are different.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) The granule according to claim 21, wherein the acidic buffer component in the core has a pH of 4 to below 7 and the acidic buffer component in the coating has a pH of 1 to 5.

Claim 25. (Cancelled)

Claim 26. (Previously presented) A granule according to claim 18 comprising at least 55% w/w of acidic buffer component in the core.

Claim 27-28. (Cancelled)

Claim 29. (Previously presented) A detergent composition comprising a granule of claim 18.

Claim 30. (Currently amended) A process for preparing granules of claim 18 comprising:
preparing a core comprising a uniform mixture of a detergent enzyme having an alkaline pH activity optimum, and 20% w/w or more of acidic buffer component, wherein said acidic buffer component has a pH of 1 to below 7 when measured as a 10 % aqueous solution and a pK_a in the range of 4 to 9 and is selected from the group consisting of NaH₂PO₄, KH₂PO₄ and Na₂H-citrate, wherein the detergent enzyme is selected from the group consisting of oxidoreductases, transferases, hydrolases, lyases, isomerases and ligases—comprising a detergent enzyme having an alkaline pH activity optimum and at more than 50% w/w of acidic buffer component having a pH of 1 to below 7 when measured as a 10 % aqueous solution and a pK_a in the range of 4 to 9; and
coating the core with a coating material.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 30, wherein the granule is prepared in a mixer, a fluid bed, a fluidized spray dryer, a spray fluidizer, a spray dryer or an extruder.

Claim 32. (Currently amended) A coated granule comprising a core comprising a uniform mixture of a detergent enzyme having an alkaline pH activity optimum, and 50% w/w or more of acidic buffer component, wherein said acidic buffer component has a pH of 1 to below 7 when measured as a 10 % aqueous solution and a pK_a in the range of 4 to 9 and is selected from the group consisting of NaH₂PO₄, KH₂PO₄ and Na₂H-citrate, wherein the detergent enzyme is selected from the group consisting of oxidoreductases, transferases, hydrolases, lyases, isomerases and ligases.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) A granule in accordance with claim 32, wherein the pH of the acidic buffer component is 3 to below 7.

Claim 34. (Previously presented) A granule in accordance with claim 32, wherein the pK_a of the acidic buffer component is 5 to 7.

Claim 35. (Previously presented) A granule in accordance with claim 32, further comprising an acidic buffer component in the coating.

Claim 36-40. (Canceled)